

SUBJECT: KOROTYCH Vitali , his stay in Montreal, Que.

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Source : RR of Montreal, Que

Date : 24 May 1965

21 April 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Subject visited CBC , Ukrainian Desk at lunchtime , for a short time , after coming back from the Commissioner of Parks of Montreal . He was on the way to his hotel nearby and dropped in to arrange a meeting with the Ukrainian Desk of the CBC for the next day. In the office there were beside Source and his chess partner ANTONOVYCH Marko (they were just while eating sandwiches playing a chess party) also VESOLOVSKY I , chief of the Desk who introduced the Subject.

Source's remark that they were playing very hard because this was a very difficult party Subject commented that "every party is difficult..." Source did not "pick up the glove" and waited for eventual further comments of Subject but there were none forthcoming . (In Source's opinion Subject's comment was "deliberately provocative".)

Subject was willing to come next day to the CBC and also to meet other people in Montreal but he did not want to be later on quoted in the press or subjected to silly questioning like the one he had experienced, for instance, in Toronto. There, in Toronto, people asked him whether the Soviet regime will soon fall down "etc".

He was also willing to perform at a Poetry Evening and ANTONOVYCH told him that he was just about to organize one.

Source deliberately showed no particular interest in "getting closer " with Subject but rather waited for his initiative .

22 April 1965

1. Subject arrived at 09.30 hrs. at the CBC. He bumped upon Source's door which was open. Inside were also VESOLOVSKY and ANTONOVYCH. Soon they were joined by BACHYNSKY Omelan and HUSYN ^{Leonid} ~~Leon~~, also CBC-employees. The atmosphere was gay and friendly. Subject told the others how he had introduced Source's brother in Helsinki (at the Youth Festival) to a foreign editor ~~as their~~ as their Olynyk (from Kiev) ,

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and "they all had a great fun". Source himself he knew only from his articles. He praised them as interesting. Particularly he liked "Dity Chumatskoho shlahku" (Children of Chumatsky Road).

VESOLOVSKY's question whether he would like to get acquainted with Ukrainian emigre press he replied positively and promised to eventually come to the CBC to read it. (He never came *for them*)

On ANTONOVYCH'S suggestion he went to the former's room to discuss arrangements for his Poetry Evening and then returned again to Source's office after 20 minutes or so.

Slowly came lunch and the whole company enjoyed it with vodka and prekuska. The conversation was rather chaotic, everyone had something to say and Source's and Vesolovsky's attempts to direct it were not always successful.

2. Nevertheless, in its course Subject made statements and expressed some opinions of interest.

Replying to questions Subject stressed that he was not the only one in the Ukraine and ~~there~~ on the contrary there was a whole generation of young people like himself. " For the first time in modern history - he continued - we have a mature, complete, developed society - with all kind of people - young and old, strong and weak, wise and stupid, great and small." Prior to that Ukrainian society was incomplete because many Ukrainians were destroyed..." Then turning to Source: " You underestimate in your Dity Chumatskoho Shlahku the deep cultural process we are now going through, and this process is very important". " There are many books published today in the Ukraine, we also do many translations." "Pretty soon also my collections will be published." "We see and appreciate what has been abroad particularly in translations by Ukrainian emigres and much of it could be used in the Ukraine". "Moreover that many things in the Ukraine we have to start from very beginning ..."

" Pretty soon will appear works by SKRYPNYK". "Of course, not all of them but this means very much too."

Asked about KHVYLOVYI he began to smile and replied that this was a more difficult case.

Source asked who ~~is~~ in general in charge of "rehabilitations". "No one in particular" - replied Subject. All depends on individuals who want to force something through like, for instance, RYLSKY did with ZEROV. Subject himself managed the same with PLUZHNYK. What is needed is

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people willing to prepare something for rehabilitation and, to shun efforts to get through with it in the party. The main thing is start, to move it forth and then it goes almost by itself. Thus Subject works on a collection of Georgian poetry and he hoped to get through with it. On this occasion he stressed several times, that it was him who achieved this or that, it was him who will do this or that also. "I shall do that, I solved the problem with Polish translations, my poems are being published in Polish and pretty soon they will appear also in Czech, I organize publications..."

Pressed on KHVYLOVY, particularly on Khvylovy's cultural ~~values~~ and not political values, Subject replied that one cannot separate politics from culture or even literature... "Even this bread - he pointed at the table - is politics..." "Literature cannot be separated from politics". Countered by opposite arguments he retreated at once and changed topic.

2. The conversation switched over to Russian young poets. Vesolovsky asked about YEVTUSHENKO. Subject described him as a cosmopolitan, vain, eager to earn foreign, in this case Jewish applause. "There are many cosmopolitans among Russians - he continued - and EVTUSHENKO is one of them". YEVTUSHENKO was not Ukrainian but from Siberia, his grandfather was deported there as an arsonist of a landlord. ("He burned the barn of a landlord".) YEVTUSHENKO was never at Babyn Yar but wrote about Jews killed there because he knew there was a demand for that in the world.

"So, if I had written something about Jews like Yevtushenko I would be carried on shoulders here all over Canada from Vancouver to Montreal".

In his opinion Ukrainian literature was more national less cosmopolitan. YEVTUSHENKO knows little about both - Russian and Ukrainian literature.

Source mentioned MALYSHKO who castigated YEVTUSHENKO for his lacking knowledge of Ukrainian literature. Subject kept silent and did not make his usual grimaces when names of Malyshko, Pidsukha and others alike were mentioned. (N.B. On other occasions, as a rule, to underline that he was different from Malyshkos and Pidsukhas Subject used to make grimaces as though he did not even want to hear about them. He also stressed several times that he was not Pidsukha's successor on his visits).

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3. Someone in the group mentioned lack of Ukrainian diplomatic stations abroad. Subject was of the opinion that consulates would do, there was no need for Ukrainian embassies.

"Moreover who is going ^{to} open Embassy in Kiev even we do in other countries - Subject was explaining - but consulates could be of interest".

Source explained that consulates cannot be regarded as substitutes for embassies and pointed out all the political implications of the latter as contrary to consulates. Subject who knew better until now did not answer and then said something to the effect that there were Ukrainian consulates in Prague and Warsaw. He was again corrected on that by Source, namely that there ^{were} no Ukrainian consulates in those cities.

"Yes - was Subject's answer - but we could start with establishment of consulates in ^{the} satellites". VESOLOVSKY interrupted him that no consulates will do, embassies are needed. Then Subject: " But who will open an Embassy in Kiev ? America ? Then there will be just another espionage point". He was interrupted again by VESOLOVSKY who pointed out that not necessarily America because one could start, for instance, with Canada where Ukrainian element was so strong. Subject seemed to be interested in Canada and promised to raise this question in Kiev.

4. Vesolovsky mentioned that Canadian Ukrainians would welcome a Ukrainian immigration to Canada. This would strengthen their ethnic element. One million or so would help tremendously in Alberta or Manitoba. " Why to Canada ? - replied Subject - why not from Canada to Ukraine. Give us 500,000 Ukrainians to Kiev and we shall show you what we can..."

Source mentioned that in connection with Montreal World Fair of 1967 there will be good chances to organize a massive tourism from Ukraine and arrange a Ukrainian Pavillion at the Fair ~~like~~ which could be retained afterwards as Ukrainian Home like the French Pavillion " Paris -Montreal". Subject was very much interested in the idea and promised to discuss it with people at the Soviet Embassy on 1 May 1965 during his visit there. He will also present the problem in Kiev. " You are talking about 500,000 Ukrainians in Canada - he added - I shall talk about 2 million in the entire North America, this will impress them (in Kiev), because this is how things are to be presented..." He also promised to discuss arrangements for "Ukrainian Day " at the Fair.

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5. Asked what emigration has to do to help the people in the Ukraine Subject replied : " Write in the foreign press, talk on radio, thus ,for instance, demand that Ukraine should be an official participant^{ci} at the Fair, should have her own Pavillion."

6. Source asked Subject who and what was getting of materials (books, articles, aso) sent to Ukraine from abroad. Who reads emigre publications at all. Subject replied that on the whole little was reaching addressees in the Ukraine but some people receive emigre publications. "Primarily those who have special interest in them or deal with those problems". " Some people get emigre publication also accidentally". " There are many things in libraries but there you have to explain why you are interested in such and such publications".

7. At the end of the conversation someone suggested that Subject could spend a weekend at BACHYNSKYI'S "dacha". Subject preferred however to see Indian Village and HUSYN promised to drive him there. VESOLOVSKY asked Subject to be his guest on Easter Sunday and on this occasion to discuss contacts between CBC and Kiev Radio. Subject promised to come and enthusiastically declared that he will settle everything in Kiev, he will talk to proper people and arrange for establishment of closer contacts.

8. In the meantime Source had to do some job in the studio and left the company. After his return they were talking again about "duties and obligations of emigration". Subject complained that emigration does little to inform foreign world about the Ukraine and as an example mentioned a fact at ^{the} Winnipeg University ^{when} Ukrainians were called Russians. Source replied this was not solely emigrations responsibility. Very little in this field was being done by Kiev itself and he pointed out that at one lecture at Politechnical Conference in Montreal he was accused by some Canadians who had visited Ukraine that Source's conclusions about Ukraine were overoptimistic because their own observations were quite different. Foreigners had seen actual facts and those proved only one thing , namely , that there was no Ukrainian state but Ukrainian province within a Russian "indivisible" empire. Subject did not deny it and switched over to SYMONENKO.

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9. Subject asked not to attach to ^{YOUNG} Ukrainian poets and writers emigre ideological convictions like some people abroad were already doing. " And on the whole, when you publish and comment our works don't make your own interpretations of what we are thinking..." "Otherwise they drag us again and again and tell us to show them our authentic rifles of which emigre critics are writing..." " They are dragging how even Symonenko's mother".

Source remarked that "Suchasnist" was also against such comments and was the first one to castigate for that "Shlakh Peremohy". Subject replied : "Yes, this is true, this was a good commentary (on Symonenko) and a good explanation afterwards." " On the whole Suchasnist is a very good journal ..." Then he began to attack the irresponsibility of Shlakh Peremohy in Symonenko's case and added that "we in Kiev have also such stupid people as you have banderivtsi here."

10. When parting Subject promised on VESOLOVSKYI'S suggestion to pay him visit on 25 April, and to visit Source and ANTONOVYCH, on 26 and 28 April ,respectively.

11. The night of 21/22 Apr 1965 Subject spent in company of SERGEEV, fnu, at Subject's hotel - room. SERGEEV came from Moscow to Ottawa as a representative of Soviet Radio and TV and had some official business with Canadian BC and TV.

22 April 1965 HUSYN asked Subject whether it was SERGEEV with whom Subject emptied a bottle of whisky until ^{it} dawned . Subject replied that he did not remember his name.

It was Subject himself who mentioned to HUSYN and others that he had a guest lat night and they emptied "the whole bottle while talking about this and that until it dawned ".

25 Apr 1965

1. Subject did not go to VESOLOVSKY but instead stayed from 13.00 to 18.00 hrs at ROGOVSKIS of Montreal. Beside ROGOVSKIS there were Dr H. RUDNYTSKA and M. ANTONOVYCH.

RUDNYTSKA was mainly interested in medical affairs and particularly in medical studies at Kiev University which she knew.

Subject admitted that medical lectures were read in Russian because ~~because~~ there were no Ukrainian manuals. Exams could be taken however

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in both - Ukrainian in Russian, according to student's preference. RUDNYTSKA told Subject that at her time she there were Ukrainian manuals and Ukrainian medical terminology was "in good shape" so what had happened to them now. Subject replied indirectly that "still" at 4 Faculties, incl. Marxism - Leninism, lectures were read in Ukrainian and in his opinion this meant "quite a lot".

26 Apr 1965

Subject excused himself for not being able to come to Source because he was very busy.

27 Apr 1965

1. Subject paid a visit to ANTONOVYCH. Next day ANTONOVYCH told Source the following: " You see, I was right, there was no point in printing Symonenko's Diary (in Suchasnist). Now they drag there the people. The Soviets know that Symonenko's mother has given her son's Diary to Svitlychny and the latter handed it over to emigration. Now they can or will liquidate some people there".

Asked where from he knows all that ANTONOVYCH replied : " I was told so by Korotych, and besides, there was also a declaration by Symonenko's mother in Radianska Ukraina. These are two voices already".

Source said that he wondered if both sources of Antonovych's opinion should be unreservedly regarded ^{as their own genuine opinions} to what ANTONOVYCH replied:

" O well, then you don't know how far-reaching changes have been taking place recently there, in Ukraine".

(N.B. ANTONOVYCH was the one who warned Source prior to Subject's arrival in Canada that according to ^{the} letters they (OUN Melnyk) had received from Kiev Subject had betrayed his friends and therefore one should be very careful with him.)

28 Apr 1965

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1. In the evening Subject visited VESOLOVSKY. They discussed establishment of contacts between the CBC and Radio Kiev. Subject promised again to do all he can in Kiev.

Subject told VESOLOVSKY that only 2 years ago he was given an apartment of his own and until then, lived together with his parents.

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They discussed various political topics and on several occasions Subject mentioned that he had already read about it in such and such article by Source.

VESOLOVSKY had several reprints of Source's articles and he gave them to Subject. The latter also asked for Suchasnist # 4 and was given one. He also wanted Suchasnist issue for Dec 1964 and Vesolovsky gave him his own exemplar.

2. When Vesolovsky suggested that it would be a good idea to invite Mr BELIL (?) ,Park Commissioner of Montreal to Kiev while he will be touring CSR and Hungary this summer, Subject replied that this would be too much bother for him (Subject) to explain "all that" to Kiev Miska Rada and therefore Mr Belil should better write to Kiev himself.

30 Apr 1965

1. Subject had his Poetry Evening organized By ANTONOVICH. There were about 300 people, at the Students Dormitory of Montreal University (French). Subject read his poetry and then there were questions from the public. Those were banal, uninteresting, general. In the middle of his answers, for no reason whatsoever, Subject suddenly used his old phrase: " I want to write about my sojourn in Canada in such a way that I could look straightly into your eyes".

2. After the Poetry Evening there was a small party at the house of Luba GENUSH of Montreal (Ukrainian painter, stems from Eastern Ukraine). The party was organized by Mrs LOGUSH of Montreal. The conversation there was more to the point but Subject continued with general answers and phraseology. Asked why there was no one after Mohylnyi who could write ^{knowingly} about Ukrainian city and not just about kolhospy, Subject did not know what to answer.

3. At the party as well as on other occasions (at the meeting with students at SUDCHAK's house) Subject attacked very severely Suchasnist for Symonenko's ~~xxx~~ Diary . " The printing of the Diary was a death-kiss ; thus a talented critic Svitylchyn has been destroyed" - he used to say. " It is very harmful to comment our poets and writers from the position of nationalism ". He repeated again his phrase about "automatic rifles" they are being asked after by the KGB as a result of such emigre comments and critiques. When someone pointed to Shlakh

Peremohy and tried to defend Suchasnist, Subject's answer was : "The main thing is that a reprinting took place, and this is a death-kiss".

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May 5 , 1965

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Subject visited the Ukrainian Section of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's International Service to hear some old tapes of the Ukrainian programs, and then visited Source's office, suggesting that they meet somewhere for coffee and a talk, in private. Source earlier did not seek any meetings, but rather left the initiative to the Subject. Source had an appointment May 5, so the two agreed to make it the next day.

May 6, 1965

Subject returned to the CBC and taped some of his poems, visited with the members of the Ukrainian Section, and again came to the Source's office.

Sub.: "Well, can you spare an hour for me, but not here." (The day before he also made a point that he would not want to talk "in the radio building").

In the elevator Subject remarked that Source is the only person there in Ukr, Sec. without a car, and asked how much the source is paid. Source explained the salary system of the CBC, including the yearly raises guaranteed by the union contract.

When the two passed Honey Dew restaurant on Peel St. (near Subject's Laurentien Hotel, and about three blocks from the CBC), Sub. suggested that they go in there. (Source noted that Sub. must have been there before. /This is correct/).

Over tea Source asked if Sub. has enough of the talking with people. Sub.: "I can't complain. For example, I wanted to talk to you a bit."

Sou.: "Have they managed to convince you that you should stay here?"

Sub.: "This would be the stupidest mistake I could make. It would be a tragic mistake," and added that some persons have suggested that he stay, using as argument that there is plenty of everything here. "That's nonsense," said Sub.

Source wanted to know whether there are in Ukraine, as in other countries, persons who are interested in international affairs, and how many of them there are.

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The answer was that there are about 100 persons who read articles "such as yours in SUCHASNIST" and similar writers. These persons are "of high quality."

Source expressed doubt that there is a Ukrainian "establishment" interested in Ukrainian problems as a whole. The only interest seems to be from a security-intelligence point of view.

Sub.: "No, it is not limited to intelligence and security. There are people who think broadly. Today there are such people. You know what mediocrity we had in the leadership after Skrypnyk. Now, new cadres have been brought up. Everything is not as yet what it should be, but things are improving. You may be sure, that your articles and those of other writers are studied carefully."

Source said he was glad to hear this, and asked about the possibilities of sending articles and publications into Ukraine.

Sub.: "Send as many as you can. It won't do any harm."

Knowing Source's connections to U of Montreal, Sub. suggested that Source put an article, preferably in a ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ English ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~, because those things get in easier, into a university envelope and send it.

Contacts with abroad

Subject said the expansion of contacts is most important for Ukraine, and he saw the cultural contacts with other socialist countries as a good thing.

Subject did not think exchange of ambassadors between Ukraine and the Satellites is imminent, but added that at least personal contacts, particularly among the literati are growing. Now, he said, tourism is beginning to grow between Ukraine and USA and Canada; that more sea liner traffic is expected, all that is necessary is to conquer the prevailing fear.

Subject agreed that before Canadian citizens travel en masse to Ukraine, Canadian gov't would have to make arrangements with the Soviet Embassy that these people would not be detained, provided, of course, there are no warrants for arrest against them, as in the case of Toronto restaurateur Kupyak.

(Source did not follow up this topic, for lack of time, and because he already knew Sub's views of UPA: idealistic men, whose leaders left them, and they were lost)

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Between the Ukrainian emigrés and those in Ukraine there is no dialogue, agreed ~~XXXXXX~~ Subject, just a monologue. This, he thought, was unfortunate.

Source said he sent a copy of his open letter to Iryna Vilde to her, by registered mail, add care of Zhovten offices. Subject asked whether Source has the receipt for the letter, to which he received affirmative answer, then Subject said Vilde will probably reply in some Soviet newspaper or magazine

Source: "She may answer in any newspaper she wants, and may defeat my arguments, but her answer should be in serious tone. Today probably the devil himself is speaking to God, only..."

Sub.: "Only the Ukrainians refuse to speak to each other. There is no dialogue among us. Yet there should be one. As soon as I'm in Kiev. I will see what can be done about it."

Subject also encouraged Source to try going to Kiev for a visit, saying he would surely like to talk to some of Subject's friends. Source said he would like to go, but openly, as a correspondent, just as other Canadians of various ethnic backgrounds are going to Russia.

Subject suggested that Source would enjoy meeting Ivan Dzyuba, to which Source replied "yes and no" because he is more interested in politics and international affairs than literary criticism, and would prefer meeting someone of that type. He added, there was no one in that category in the group headed by Kolossova.

To this Sub. replied that Kolossova herself was the person to talk to, because "she is in the ministerial level." As for the political writers and publicists, said Sub., "we don't have any of them."

Atom-free Zone

Source outlined for Sub. one of his articles on the desirability of an atom-free zone, which would take in Ukraine.

Sub.: "Ukraine borders on Russia, and it can never be in an atom-free zone, because it will then fall into the hands of Germany and then Russia will have to step in."

Source said that in his writings he stands for including Germany into the atom-free zone also, and Sub. said he will definitely have to read the above-mentioned article.

Of Byelorussia, Sub. said, it is today a very insignificant country, and the entire Baltic region, just as Georgia, are entities in themselves only. "We can merely use them as our examples."

Sub. later added that he will attempt to take some of Source's articles with him to Kiev. "We'll have to talk them over there. I hope I'll be successful in this. You have to place your hopes in the young generation."

Official persons.

P.Yu.Shelest is a good Ukrainian, said Sub.

Kolossova's group was also made up of official persons, and their trip here was a good step forward, because they lead Ukraine into the wide world.

What is expected of the emigres?

"Not to add nationalistic commentaries to literary works. Criticize them from a literary point of view. Propagate Ukrainian culture. "

He further added that SUCHAKNIST should not have published Symonenko's works, because this will probably mean the loss of Svitlychnyy -- a good critic -- since it was he who had the manuscripts. ✓

Subject said it is worthwhile sending selected clippings of articles and books to the Soviet embassies and missions, "because someone will read them, and even pass them on to other persons." ✓

Defeatism

"Anyone who says that Moscow knows everything, that it managed to Russify everything, that nothing can be done, that person is a Bandera capitulator." Newspapers such as Homin Ukrainy and Shliakh Peremohy, he said, are spreading defeatism.

Montreal's World's Fair 1967

Subject said he will see what he can do in Kiev about having Ukraine exhibited as a separate state in the USSR pavilion rather than as an integral part of the USSR, after Source warned him that "we plan to hit the idea of merely having some of Ukraine's products ~~xxxx~~ displayed in the Soviet pavilion."

Trip to US

Probably not, said Sub., because I would like to go there for a longer period some other time, and it may not be as easy if my record shows that I had already been there.

Miscellany

Subject was also interested in the rates paid by various Ukrainian and English publications to writers

He promised various Ukrainians in the Montreal area that he would correspond with them.

And admitted that "you are better tacticians than we are, I cannot deny it." when Source said that "we are aware that Moscow is setting ^{up} various extremists to fight us, but we can take care of them."

ADDITIONAL NOTES

1. Subject spent very much time in company of PANCHUK Bogdan. The latter was very impressed by Subject and PANCHUK used to say that he would readily" exchange the entire emigration for one Korotych". Other people who cared very much to "monopolize " Subject were Lida ROGOVSKA, Marko ANTONOVYCH, and to some extent LOGUSH Maria.

2. While attacking Suchasnist for reprinting Symonenko's Diary Subject used to mention also Hala HORBATYCH whose articles in Osteuropa caused much trouble for young writers in the Ukraine. On several occasions when he was told that actually Suchasnist commented ~~xxx~~ quite prudently about Symonenko and this was Shlakh Peremohy which made a nationalist out of Symonenko, Subject discarded such arguments with the phrase: "The main thing was the reprinting at all, because this was the deadly kiss that killed Svitlychny". In Source 's opinion Subject conducted in Montreal a wicked campaign against Suchasnist and the people around it by ^{even} deliberately putting aside the case with Shlakh Peremohy and concentrating his main attack on Suchasnist.

3. At a private party at CHEKHUT'S house which took place already after his visit to VESOLOVSKY and Indian Village (he was brought there by HUSYN Leonid as planned), Subject made very derogatory remarks about the CBC and its employees. In Subject's opinion " they are bankrupt people of no value whatsoever". " And most bankrupt are Vesolovsky and Husyn". " Husyn is completely finished off, he only lives by fish and vodka".

At another private party he described the CBC broadcasts ^{in Ukrainian} as "superfluous". " Eventually the news on cultural life could be useful, but all the rest is no good. Political news is outdated and besides, there is no need for their comments because our people are better informed".

4. On 6 May 1965, at a cocktail - party at SERBYN ^{He} (Butcher) , there were approx. 40 persons , mainly ladies and several students. The conversation was very general, the party - purely social. Students were quite dissatisfied with Subject's tendency to generalize and avoid concrete answers but ladies very quite happy with taking pictures with the poet...

Subject visited also SUCHOVERSKYS (son-in-law of Bishop Mstyslav) and many other families , among them GAVALESHKO.

5. On several occasions Subject expressed quite a strong anti-Chinese feelings. " We cannot go together with Chinese because they want war . No one in Ukraine wants war but peace. "

At CHEKHUT'S house : " I am very much worried about the situation in Asia". " I am also very much concerned about the situation in San Domingo, I am all shivering when I think what eventually may come out of it..."

6. On 11 May 1965 Subject left for Europe from Montreal. PANCHUK and several ladies were seeing him to the airport. Subject had to pay \$ 200.- surcharge on his baggage.